

Attorney's Docket No. 44316/241486

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Guenther Uhlenhuth, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3729

Appl. No.: To Be Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: COMMUNICATION CABLE HAVING LOOPS OF A
RETAINER ELEMENT AT SUCCESSIVE LOCATIONS,
A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING THE CABLE

November 26, 2001

Box Patent Application
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application prior to examination as follows:

In the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph on page 1, line 1, prior to "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION":

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/603,719, filed February 20, 1996, which is hereby incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

In The Claims:

Please cancel original Claims 1-48 prior to calculation of the filing fee and add new Claims 49-65 as follows:

49. A communication cable comprising an elongated cable core having a tensile strength element (ZE) and a plurality of optical transmission elements (UE1, UEn) stranded around said tensile strength element (ZE) and being held together as a bundle by at least one retainer element, said retainer element being arranged in a form of an interlocking stitch.

50. The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein each of said plurality of said transmission elements (UE1, UEn) comprises a tube (KH) and at least one optical light waveguide (LW) within said tube.

51. The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said tube being further filled with a filling compound (FUM).

52. The communication cable according to claim 51, wherein said filling compound is a thixotropic mass.

53. The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said interlocking stitch is arranged in a form of loops of a yarn at successive discrete locations, said loops applying a radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

54. The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said arrangement of transmission elements (UE1, UEn) has an annular outside contour (KR).

55. The communication cable according to claim 54 further comprising a cable filling compound (FM) arranged in free space between said transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

56. The communication cable according to claim 53, wherein the loops are formed by a plurality of retainer elements at different positions on an outside circumference of the cable core, wherein these loops are chained to one another.

57. The communication cable according to claim 56, wherein the loops of the retainer elements are provided on an outside surface of the cable core at discrete locations that follow one another in a circumferential direction, and wherein the respective loops are tightened to pinch one another and to provide a radially acting retainer force.

58. The communication cable according to claim 56, wherein the loops are chained to one another in a longitudinal direction and in a circumferential direction to form a substantially helical path around the bundle.

59. A communication cable comprising a plurality of optical transmission elements and at least one retainer element arranged in a form of an interlocking stitch for holding said optical transmission elements together, each of said plurality of transmission element comprising a tube and at least one optical light waveguide within said tube, and said retainer extending about said optical transmission elements without contacting said optical light waveguides of said optical transmission elements.

60. The communication cable according to claim 59, wherein said interlocking stitch is arranged in a form of loops of a yarn at successive discrete locations, said loops applying radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

61. The communication cable according to claim 59, wherein said arrangement of transmission elements (UE1, UEn) has an annular outside contour (KR).

62. A communication cable comprising a tensile strength element (ZE) and a plurality of optical transmission elements (UE1, UEn) stranded around said tensile strength element (ZE) and at least one retainer element, said retainer element being arranged as an interlocking stitch in a form of loops at successive discrete locations, said loops applying a radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn), and each of said plurality of said transmission elements (UE1, UEn) comprising a tube (KH) and at least one optical light waveguide (LW) within said tube.

63. The communication cable according to claim 62, wherein said tube being further filled with a filling compound (FUM).

64. The communication cable according to claim 62, wherein said retainer element is a yarn.

65. A communication cable comprising a plurality of optical transmission elements and at least first and second retainer elements for holding said optical transmission elements together, each of said retainer elements forming a sequence of loops, each loop having a closed end and an open end, said open end being formed of first and second portions of the respective retainer element, the first and second portions of the first retainer element of each of its loops penetrating the closed end of the loops of the second retainer element.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to insert a cross-reference to the parent application and to introduce a new set of claims. As such, entry of the Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fees and prior to examination is requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

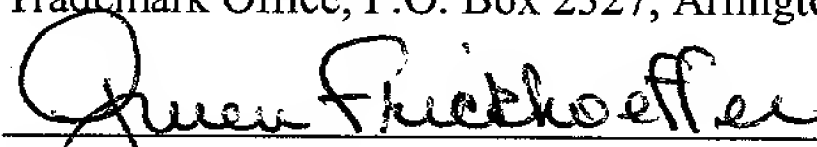
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Gwen Frickhoeffter

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

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49. (Newly Added) A communication cable comprising an elongated cable core having a tensile strength element (ZE) and a plurality of optical transmission elements (UE1, UEn) stranded around said tensile strength element (ZE) and being held together as a bundle by at least one retainer element, said retainer element being arranged in a form of an interlocking stitch.

50. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein each of said plurality of said transmission elements (UE1, UEn) comprises a tube (KH) and at least one optical light waveguide (LW) within said tube.

51. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said tube being further filled with a filling compound (FUM).

52. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 51, wherein said filling compound is a thixotropic mass.

53. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said interlocking stitch is arranged in a form of loops of a yarn at successive discrete locations, said loops applying a radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

54. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said arrangement of transmission elements (UE1, UEn) has an annular outside contour (KR).

55. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 54 further comprising a cable filling compound (FM) arranged in free space between said transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

56. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 53, wherein the loops are formed by a plurality of retainer elements at different positions on an outside circumference of the cable core, wherein these loops are chained to one another.

57. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 56, wherein the loops of the retainer elements are provided on an outside surface of the cable core at discrete locations that follow one another in a circumferential direction, and wherein the respective loops are tightened to pinch one another and to provide a radially acting retainer force.

58. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 56, wherein the loops are chained to one another in a longitudinal direction and in a circumferential direction to form a substantially helical path around the bundle.

59. (Newly Added) A communication cable comprising a plurality of optical transmission elements and at least one retainer element arranged in a form of an interlocking stitch for holding said optical transmission elements together, each of said plurality of transmission element comprising a tube and at least one optical light waveguide within said tube, and said retainer extending about said optical transmission elements without contacting said optical light waveguides of said optical transmission elements.

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61. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 59, wherein said arrangement of transmission elements (UE1, UEn) has an annular outside contour (KR).

62. (Newly Added) A communication cable comprising a tensile strength element (ZE) and a plurality of optical transmission elements (UE1, UEn) stranded around said tensile strength element (ZE) and at least one retainer element, said retainer element being arranged as an interlocking stitch in a form of loops at successive discrete locations, said loops applying a radially acting retainer force to the

transmission elements (UE1, UEn), and each of said plurality of said transmission elements (UE1, UEn) comprising a tube (KH) and at least one optical light waveguide (LW) within said tube.

63. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 62, wherein said tube being further filled with a filling compound (FUM).

64. (Newly Added) The communication cable according to claim 62, wherein said retainer element is a yarn.

65. (Newly Added) A communication cable comprising a plurality of optical transmission elements and at least first and second retainer elements for holding said optical transmission elements together, each of said retainer elements forming a sequence of loops, each loop having a closed end and an open end, said open end being formed of first and second portions of the respective retainer element, the first and second portions of the first retainer element of each of its loops penetrating the closed end of the loops of the second retainer element.